

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Goro KATSUYAMA, Masaaki KABUMOTO, Kanae AMEMIYA,  
Osamu MIKI, Hideo AOKI and Akiyoshi TANAKA

Serial No. : Not Yet Known Int'l Appl'n No.: PCT/JP2003/015439

Date Filed : Concurrently Herewith Int'l Filing Date: 2 December 2003

For: COMPACT FRONT-OPERABLE IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS

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Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Pursuant to the applicant's duty of disclosure, the information listed in the attached Form PTO-1449 is brought to the attention of the Examiner. Copies of the information identified herein are also provided.

It is respectfully requested that the information cited in annexed Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner in connection with the above-identified patent application, filed concurrently herewith, and that such art be made of record in said application.

The subject application is a U.S. national phase application under 35 U.S.C. 371 of International Application No. PCT/JP2003/015439. Some of the items listed on the annexed Form PTO-1449 were cited in the International Search Report, Written Opinion and/or International Preliminary Report On Patentability in connection with International Application No. PCT/JP2003/015439. Copies of the International Search Report, Written Opinion and/or

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JCO6 Rec'd PCT/A 27 MAY 2005

Dkt. 2271/74479

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International Preliminary Report On Patentability are submitted concurrently herewith.

The citation of the listed items is not a representation that they constitute a complete or exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that these items are prior art. The items listed are submitted in good faith, but are not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner of the particular items, they will assist in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,



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